

Appl. No. : 09/231,415
Filed : January 14, 1999

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

Please cancel Claims 27-41 and 77-99 without prejudice and without disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims in one or more descendant applications.

1-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A purchase request management system, ~~wherein said purchase request management system is remotely managed by a user over a computer network, said purchase request management system comprising:~~

a system database comprising a plurality of purchase requests received from potential buyers;

a buyer-dealer association module configured to exclusively assign each a purchase request received from a potential buyer to one or more dealers that each have a predefined sales region with which the purchase request is associated; and

~~a system database comprising a plurality of sets of purchase requests, each set of purchase requests associated with one of a plurality of dealers at least some of said purchase requests assigned to an associated dealer by the buyer-dealer association module, each purchase request belonging to at least one set of purchase requests and fewer than all sets of purchase requests; and~~

a dealer access module configured to permit each dealer to access the system database over a computer network using a remote terminal and to view and manage only the set of those purchase requests associated with assigned to the dealer.

27-99. (Canceled)

Please add the following new claims:

100. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein the dealer access module permits each dealer to enter information about at least one of the purchase requests and the entered information is stored in the system database.

101. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 100, wherein the dealer access module permits each dealer to assign at least one task related to at least one purchase request to a user associated with the dealer.

Appl. No. : 09/231,415
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102. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 101, wherein information about assigned tasks is stored in the system database.

103. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 100, wherein the dealer access module permits each dealer to enter a status related to at least one purchase request.

104. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 103, wherein information about purchase request status is stored in the system database.

105. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein the system database further comprises a plurality of product records, each product record corresponding to at least one product sold by at least one of the dealers and comprising at least a product type and an estimated product price.

106. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 105, wherein the system database is configured to be accessible over a computer network to at least one potential buyer using a remote terminal and to provide product information to the potential buyer.

107. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein each predefined sales region comprises a geographic region and each purchase request is associated with at least one of the predefined sales regions based on at least one geographic designation associated with the purchase request.

108. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 107, wherein the buyer-dealer association module is configured to assign each purchase request to only one dealer.

109. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 108, wherein the geographic designation associated with the purchase request is derived from contact information of the potential buyer to whom the purchase request corresponds.

110. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 109, wherein the geographic designation associated with the purchase request is derived from the potential buyer's zip code.

111. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein the system database further comprises a plurality of exclusive database regions, each exclusive database region being reserved for a single dealer and being configured to store only those purchase requests assigned to the single dealer.

Appl. No. : 09/231,415
Filed : January 14, 1999

112. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 111, wherein the buyer-dealer association module is configured to assign each purchase request to one or more dealers by storing a copy of the purchase request in the exclusive database region of each assigned dealer.

113. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 112, wherein the dealer access module is configured to permit each dealer to access a purchase request substantially immediately upon a copy of the purchase request being stored in the dealer's exclusive database region.

114. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 112, wherein the dealer access module permits each dealer to access only those purchase requests assigned to the dealer by permitting the dealer to access only the exclusive database region reserved for the dealer.

115. (New) A purchase request management system comprising:
a system database comprising a plurality of purchase requests received from potential buyers;
a buyer-dealer association module configured to exclusively assign each purchase request received from a potential buyer of a product or service to one or more dealers of the product or service that belong to a predefined subgroup of dealers that sell the product or service; and
a dealer access module configured to permit each dealer to access the system database over a computer network using a remote terminal and to view and manage only those purchase requests assigned to the dealer.

Appl. No. : **09/231,415**
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116. (New) A purchase request management system comprising:

- a system database comprising a plurality of purchase requests received from potential buyers;
- a buyer-dealer association module configured to exclusively direct each purchase request received from a potential buyer to one or more dealers that each have a predefined sales region with which the purchase request is associated; and
- a dealer access module configured to permit each dealer to access the system database over a computer network using a remote terminal and to view and manage only those purchase requests associated with the dealer.